

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1 to 5, 7 to 11, 13, 14 and 18, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 6, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration together with entry of those amendments is respectfully sought.

Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 1 recites a sheet supplying apparatus which comprises a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion, the second stacking portion being arranged detachable from and attachable to the first stacking portion, and the second stacking portion including a base member for mounting to the first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via a guide groove for supporting a sheet as stacked. Claim 1 also recites a supplying roller that supplies the sheet stacked on the first stacking portion or the sheet stacked on the second stacking portion toward the recording means and is characterized in that when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in a first direction to supply the sheet stacked on the first stacking portion, and that when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is also rotated in the first direction to supply sheet stacked on the second stacking portion.

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Trask et al. (US Patent No. 5,116,034). Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hewlett Packard Office Jet 600 Series Device in view of Trask and

over Jang (US Patent No. 6,315,280) in view of Trask et al.. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Applicants' invention is characterized in that when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in the first direction to supply the sheet stacked on the first stacking portion, while when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in a first direction to supply the sheet stacked on the second stacking portion. Either way, the supplying roller is rotated in the first direction. With this combination of features, the present invention provides a sheet supplying apparatus which can supply plural types of sheets with a compact configuration.

Trask et al. discloses that a paper sheet tray 26 and an envelope tray 34 are detachable from a printer. A central feed roller 60 is rotated in the counter-clockwise direction when it contacts a topmost sheet on the stack 28 to feed a sheet from the tray 26, and to feed an envelope from the envelope tray 34, a feed roller 48 contacts the lowermost envelope of the tray 36 and is rotated in a clockwise direction. Thus, in Trask et al., a direction of rotation of the roller in feeding a sheet from the tray 26 is opposite of the direction of a roller in feeding an envelope from tray 34. Thus Trask et al. differs from Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1.

The HP Office Jet 600 Series Device features an apparatus with a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion. However, the HP device is silent as to the characterizing features of Applicants' invention wherein when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in a first direction to supply the sheet stacked on the first stacking portion while when the tray moves downstream in the sheet

supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in the same first direction to supply the sheet stacked on the second stacking portion. Thus, The HP Office Jet 600 Series Device is silent as to the roller being moved in the same direction for the second stacking portion as for the first stacking portion.

Jang does not meet any of the above shortcomings of Trask et al. or The HP Office Jet 600 Series Device. More specifically, Jang does not disclose or suggest the characterizing of Applicants' invention where the supplying roller of the first stacking portion rotates in the same direction as the supplying roller of the second stacking portion.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the three applied references neither teach nor suggest the invention as now recited in independent claim 1.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments after final as they are being presented in an earnest effort to advance prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance. Such amendments were not previously presented as Applicants had been of the firm belief that the claims previously on file were allowable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence A. Stahl/

Lawrence A. Stahl
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LAS:cjw

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